

left her, and found on her return at 3 P. M., that she had no pain during her absence; the os uteri was lower down, and more yielding, though not in the least dilated, and a slight discharge of water, tinged with blood, escaped whilst making the examination. She had not slept, nor felt the motion of the child since. Soon after the waters broke. A dose of castor oil was now ordered.

Mr. Brownbill saw her the following evening, Nov. 21st, and found that the labour had not progressed, the os uteri remaining contracted; she had no pains; the vomiting continued; she complained of feeling weak and poorly; pulse feeble; countenance anxious.

The next day extreme restlessness came on; she complained of severe pain in the middle of the back; between one and two o'clock her breathing became laborious; her finger nails turned livid; a continued gasping followed, and death closed the scene.

On post-mortem examination, a large rupture of the uterus was found extending from the centre of the fundus posteriorly along its whole length, as far as the os uteri. The length of the opening was about seven inches. The uterus seemed perfectly healthy, and was well contracted over the firmly adherent placenta. The child had evidently been dead some days, the first stage of putrefaction having commenced.

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39. *Twins born at two months interval.*—Dr. WILBERG relates in the *Gaz. Médicale di Milano*, the case of a young woman married ten months, and who in the eighth month of utero-gestation, (March 24th, 1846,) was delivered of a viable infant, but which had not attained its perfect development. Her labour was easy, the placenta was spontaneously thrown off in about an hour and a quarter, and the usual sequelæ were presented, except that the mammæ did not tumefy, and it was necessary to procure a wet-nurse for the child. However the mother thought that she perceived the motions of another child, and the abdomen increased in size. On the 20th of May, she was again seized with labour pains, and gave birth to a perfectly developed child, larger and heavier than the first. The third day her mammæ became tumid, milk fever occurred, and this young mother was able to nurse both children.—*Gazette des Hôpitaux*, Sept. 30, 1847.

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40. *Prolapsus of the Uterus during Labour.*—*Subsequent Reduction and Cure.*—By M. NAUDIN.—This woman was in labour with her third child. After the pains had continued for forty-eight hours, the waters having been prematurely evacuated, and the os uteri remaining rigid and undilated,—the uterus was suddenly precipitated outside the vulva. M. Gassail dilated the rigid os uteri with the hand, and presently the child was born, and soon followed by the placenta.

The uterus was replaced, but was again protruded during an effort in making water. It was again reduced, and retained by a T bandage. In ten days this woman was able to walk about, and, on examination, the os uteri was found at its usual height in the pelvis.—*Month. Journ. and Retrospect of the Med. Sciences*, March 1848, from *Gazette Médicale*, Dec. 18, 1847.

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41. *Simple Metritis after Delivery.*—Dr. WILLEMIN maintains that this affection is most frequently produced by deep laceration of the neck of the uterus, an accident which he believes to happen in most deliveries, although generally not to a serious degree. In regard to the symptoms of metritis, he denies entirely the existence of morbid sensibility in the vaginal portion of the neck of the uterus, a symptom which M. Chomel particularly points out. The state of the lochiæ varies extremely; but the most important change on them is an unusual persistence or even increase of their sanguinolent character after the first week, whilst in the malignant puerperal metritis the lochiæ are generally suppressed. Contrary to the statement of Duges and Chomel, M. Willemin asserts that the urinary functions are very rarely disturbed.—*Ibid.*, from *Archives Générales de Médecine*, Dec. 1847.

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42. *Placentalitis occurring twice in the same woman.* By Dr. VAN HENGEL.—In Feb. 1844, a woman, thirty-three years of age, having arrived at the exact time when her tenth menstruation would have taken place, was delivered of a child, of whose death there had been distinct signs three weeks previously. The fœtal portion of

the placenta had degenerated into a substance resembling cartilage, of a grayish-white colour; on the uterine surface it was still spongy and porous in several spots. In Feb. 1846, the same woman was again arrived near the time of her delivery. She stated that a month previously she had had a slight attack of fever, after which she was seized with severe pain in the right side of the belly, in which part she felt as if there were a weighty stone lying within her; at the same time she suffered from thirst, sleeplessness, headache, and loss of appetite. Subsequently she was troubled at various times with bloody, watery, and purulent discharges from the vagina.

On the 26th Feb., the pulsation of the fœtal heart could not be heard, nor could any movements of the child be felt by the mother or her medical attendant; and at the same time she complained of nausea and a sensation of cold in the belly. Some days after, she was delivered very quickly of a child which appeared to have been long dead. The placenta was circular, curled inwards at the edges, grayish-yellow in colour. On the fœtal surface it was dark brown or almost black; and it was so indurated as not to bend when held out by one point.—*Ibid.*, from *Schmid's Jahrbucher*, 1847.

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### ANÆSTHETIC AGENTS.

[Anæsthetic agents have now been used very extensively in surgical operations and midwifery practice, as also in several morbid conditions of the nervous system. It would be impossible for us to notice all the cases in which they have been employed, reported in the various medical journals;—it will be sufficient to state, that they have been resorted to in almost every description of surgical operation, and in perhaps all the varieties of labour.

We have before us a note from Mr. Lawrence to our esteemed colleague, Professor Warren, of Boston, in which that distinguished surgeon states, that ether inhalation has been used in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in all descriptions of operative proceedings, from the slightest to the most serious, between two and three thousand times, without a single unpleasant result.

Under these circumstances, we conceive that we shall best subserve the interests of our science and of humanity, by confining our notices principally to the facts which have been brought forward illustrative of the physiological action of these agents, and of the cases in which injurious or fatal consequences have resulted from their use, in order to elucidate, as far as possible, the conditions which forbid their use, and to inculcate more caution than has hitherto been observed in the employment of these very powerful articles.]

43. *Physiological Action of Chloroform and Ether on Animals*—M. GRUBY, in a communication to the Academy of Sciences, announces that the effects of chloroform vapour on dogs and rabbits are as follows:—"1. That during inspiration the arterial blood retains its florid colour, and if, under a-phylxia, it assumes the dark venous character, the red colour is speedily restored. 2. That a part of the animal, a limb for example, separated from the body, and exposed to chloroform or ether vapour, becomes insensible. 3. That if the member be removed from the vapour, sensibility is restored. 4. That during the inspiration of chloroform vapour, the number of respirations increases with the degree of insensibility produced. 5. That animals may be kept in a state of insensibility for several hours, and afterwards restored, if the inspiration of the vapour be occasionally interrupted. 6. That on the other hand, rabbits, dogs, and frogs, die suddenly in from one to four minutes after respiring the vapour, if the dose of chloroform is from 46 to 60 grains, and the inhalation be uninterrupted."—(*Medical Gazette*, December 24, 1847.)

Mr. Thomas Wakley has performed an extensive series of experiments with chloroform and ether on the lower animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, mice, pigs, hedgehogs, horses, and birds). The chloroform and ether were administered by inhalation. Mr. Wakley's researches show:

1. That there is no important difference in the effects of chloroform when inhaled by the various animals above enumerated.